

2. Applicant hereby respectfully requests that amendment of Claim 1 be entered as follows:

1(once amended). A method for evaluating degradation of an electrical signal caused by a circuit comprising the steps of:

- (a) placing a first electrical signal in communication with an input of the circuit;
- (b) passing said first electrical signal through the circuit thereby causing the circuit to output a degraded electrical signal;
- (c) providing a means of synchronizing and combining electrical signals having at least a first and a second input and one output, placing said degraded electrical signal in communication with the first input of said means of synchronizing and combining electrical signals;
- (d) placing a second electrical signal, [substantially] identical to said first electrical signal, in communication with the second input of said means of synchronizing and combining electrical signals;
- (e) placing the output of said means of synchronizing and combining electrical signals in communication with a plurality of means for creating visual representations of electrical signals in a way that the visual representation of said degraded electrical signal and the visual representation of said second electrical signal are presented separate from each other and each representation is not altered by the representation of any other signal; and
- (f) comparing said visual representation of said degraded image and said visual representation of said second electrical signal.

3. It is Applicant's position that said amendment of Claim 1 should place Claims 1-4 in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal.

4. The language in the claim "identical" as opposed to "substantially identical" second signal excludes signals transmitted through a transmission medium. Specifically, such signals will deteriorate due to the transmission and will not be "identical". Therefore, the Electronic Workbench reference lacks all the elements of Claims 1-4 of the present invention.

5. Applicant reiterates the following arguments presented in the Response to Office Action Dated 6-9-00 (these arguments refer to the diagrams submitted with said Response):

(1) The reference teaches direct connection of the source signal (i.e. Sine Wave 1) which is not degraded by the circuit (i.e. Low Pass Filter) to the display device (i.e. Oscilloscope) for comparison with the source signal degraded by the circuit (i.e. Degraded Sine Wave 1). This causes the source signal (which is supposed to serve as a reference to evaluate degradation) to be itself degraded by the cable (i.e. connecting points A and B). (On the other hand, the present invention is based on the lack of direct connection between the source (reference) signal and the display device for comparison with the degraded signal. )

(2) The reference teaches attaching a cable to the source signal (i.e. at point A in FIG 2) in order to connect the source signal to the display device (i.e. at Input 2). Aside from the degradation caused by the cable (making it impossible to use this signal as a reference), this presents an additional problem – attaching anything to the source signal, such as a cable at point A in FIG 2 will degrade the original signal. It should be